

DRAFT

**SOUTH DAKOTA
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
AND
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**SOUTH DAKOTA FIELD OFFICE
BELLE FOURCHE, SOUTH DAKOTA**

JUNE 2013

Draft
South Dakota
Resource Management Plan
and
Environmental Impact Statement

Lead Agency: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

Draft (X) Final ()

Type of Action: Administrative

Jurisdiction: South Dakota

Abstract: This Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) describes and analyzes alternatives for the planning and management of public lands and resources administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), South Dakota Field Office. The planning area for the South Dakota Field Office and this Draft RMP/EIS covers the entire state of South Dakota, which includes approximately 49.3 million acres. Within the planning area, the BLM administers about 274,000 acres of public land surface estate. The majority of BLM-administered surface estate is located in Harding, Butte, Lawrence, Pennington, Custer, Fall River, Perkins, Meade, Ziebach, and Jackson counties. The BLM manages approximately 1.7 million acres of federal mineral estate in 37 counties in South Dakota. Over 99 percent of the BLM-administered surface and mineral estate in the planning area is located in western South Dakota.

The South Dakota RMP/EIS would revise the South Dakota RMP (1986), Miles City Oil and Gas EIS (1994), and the Fort Meade Recreation Area ACEC Plan (1996.)

As part of the RMP revision process, the BLM conducted scoping to solicit input from the public and interested agencies on the nature and extent of issues and impacts to be addressed in the Draft RMP/EIS. Planning issues identified for this RMP/EIS include energy development, vegetation management, wildlife and special status species habitat, travel management and access, commercial uses, visual resource management, and climate change.

The Draft RMP/EIS considers four alternatives. Alternative A is a continuation of current management (No Action Alternative). Under this alternative, use of public lands and resources would continue to be managed under the existing management plans and guidance. Alternative B emphasizes resource development, while limiting protective management of resources. Alternative C emphasizes the most protection of resources, while still providing for use of resources. Alternative D is the BLM's current Agency Preferred Alternative. Alternative D is not a final agency decision, but instead an indication of the agency's preliminary preference that reflects the best combination of decisions to achieve BLM goals and policies, meets the purpose and need, addresses the key planning issues, and considers the recommendations of cooperating agencies and BLM specialists.

When completed, the Record of Decision for the RMP will provide comprehensive, long-range decisions for (1) managing resources in the South Dakota Field Office; and (2) identifying allowable uses on the BLM-administered surface land and mineral estate. Comments on the Draft RMP/EIS must be received within 90 days following the date the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability for this Draft RMP/EIS in the *Federal Register*. Comments should be submitted via email to BLM_MT_South_Dakota_RMP@blm.gov.

Comments can also be mailed to: RMP Project Manager, BLM South Dakota Field Office, 310 Roundup Street, Belle Fourche, SD 57717.